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D 103.6/5:

REND LAKE HUNTING GUIDE

US Army Corps of Engineers
Leaders in Customer Care

HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES

With 18,900 acres of water and over 20,000 acres of land, Rend Lake, a Federally-managed lake, provides ample opportunity for the sportsman. Fields and woods are abundant with deer, rabbit, quail, dove, and squirrel. Rend Lake, however, is probably best known for its large populations of Canada geese and ducks. This guide is intended to provide a general description of the hunting opportunities at Rend Lake. It should be used as a supplement to the State of Illinois Administrative Orders and other State and Federal hunting regulations.

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT

Although Rend Lake is a Federal facility, much of the area is leased to the Illinois Department of Conservation for recreation and wildlife management purposes.

The Department of Conservation and the Corps of Engineers both use a variety of land management techniques to encourage and enhance wildlife populations. An extensive agricultural lease program provides ample food for hungry Canada geese on several thousands of acres. This also provides ideal hunting opportunities for the ardent waterfowler. Wildlife food plots, planted with lespedeza, sorghum, soybean, and millet supply quality winter feed for upland game animals such as quail, rabbit, and deer. Large sunflower and millet fields attract thousands of mourning doves. Other land management techniques, such as succession control, hedgerow development, and reforestation benefit wildlife populations.

WATERFOWL

One of the unique features at Rend Lake is represented by the subimpoundment dams located on the Big Muddy, Casey Fork, and Gun Creek arms of the lake. During the fall and winter, the water impounded by these dams offers excellent duck hunting opportunities for the waterfowl enthusiast. Several cropfields and stands of Pin Oak are flooded within these areas to attract the ducks. Some of the boat ramps to the subimpoundments can only be used after the area is flooded.

A 5,000-acre waterfowl refuge is located on the north end of the lake and is managed by the Illinois Department of Conservation. The water portion of the refuge is closed to boat traffic from 2 weeks before waterfowl season to March 1. This allows a safe place for geese and ducks to rest, loaf, and feed.

Besides a portion of the crops being left in the field under the agricultural lease program, both Corps and Department of Conservation personnel plant wheat along the shoreline to attract foraging honkers. This technique provides a good food source for the geese as well as the potential for hunter recreation. Although not marked on the map due to yearly changes in locations, most of these areas are located along the shoreline between the subimpoundment dams and Route 154 and provide excellent goose hunting opportunities.

Each year Rend Lake provides wintering habitat for large numbers of Canada geese, puddle and diving ducks. Hunters should check the map and obtain copies of the Administrative Order before going afield. All waterfowl hunting at Rend Lake is on a first-come, first-serve basis, and no permanent blinds or pits are provided or allowed. All blinds must be portable and dismantled at the end of each day's hunt.

UPLAND

Although somewhat dwarfed by the outstanding waterfowl hunting, Rend Lake provides ample opportunity for the upland game hunter. Whether you favor the joy of working well-trained dogs on fast breaking quail or enjoy the thrill of outsmarting a wily buck, you have the chance to pursue your sport at Rend Lake. Also, both fox and gray squirrels are present, and hunting is allowed in forested tracts that border the lake. Rabbit hunters should find an abundant population of cottontails in fields and shrub areas. Dove hunting is usually available in several different areas. Check with a Corps or State Ranger.

Corps and State wildlife managers use a variety of techniques to enhance the land for game species. In the agricultural lease area, 20 to 30 foot border strips of annual and perennial vegetation are preserved, as are fence rows. These are good places to find a covey of quail or a wary cottontail. Because fall plowing is not allowed, grain residue left in the field provides choice food for many game and non-game species.

OTHER GAME SPECIES

Permit pheasant hunting is available at Wayne Fitzgerrell State Park in November and December. This activity is regulated by a special permit which can be acquired by contacting the Illinois Department of Conservation.

Crow, coyote, raccoon, and fox hunting is also allowed, as long as the hunter is in compliance with all State regulations.

Rail, woodcock, and snipe, although available in huntable numbers only on an irregular basis, find plenty of satisfactory habitat along the lakeshore and in the subimpoundment areas.

CURRENT INFORMATION

A Recreation Hotline is available 24 hours a day throughout the year. The recorded message is updated on a daily basis by Corps of Engineers personnel. The recording gives the latest information on hunting, fishing, camping, and weather conditions. During waterfowl season, hunters can get updated information on the weekly goose census. The number for this service is: (618) 435-2765.

Current lake information is also broadcast on the radio 24 hours a day on the traveler information service (T.I.S.). This service can be found by tuning to 530 am when you are within 2.5 to 10 miles of the lake.

PACK IT IN, PACK IT OUT.

NEVER LEAVE CAMPFIRES UNATTENDED.

SPECIAL HUNTS

In an effort to provide a quality hunting experience within the campgrounds, the Corps sponsors special rabbit and quail hunts. The number of hunters allowed and the dates change yearly depending on the huntable populations within these recreation areas. It is best to call the Rend Lake Management Office for information.

Each year applications are taken to give handicapped hunters an opportunity to deer hunt at Rend Lake. The special deer hunt for the handicapped is held in conjunction with the shotgun seasons in Illinois in November and December. In order to qualify, you must be non-ambulatory or semi- ambulatory.

The Illinois Department of Conservation offers controlled hunts in Wayne Fitzgerrell State Park for many upland game species. The hunts vary depending upon game populations, which include rabbit, dove, deer, and pheasant. The pheasant hunt has become a very popular annual event. Check the guide to public hunting areas for Illinois or contact the Wayne Fitzgerrell State Park Office.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

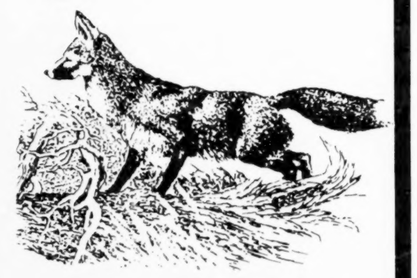
All Federal- and State-managed land at Rend Lake is available for hunting except established recreation areas and the waterfowl refuge. These areas are indicated on the map on the back of this brochure.

Hunting access parking lots, some with boat ramps, are provided around the lake.

Waterfowlers will find registration boxes at access points during the waterfowl season. It is State law that goose and duck hunters must sign in before hunting and again when they leave, recording their harvest. All hunting and non-hunting areas are appropriately signed. See the section on signs for this information.

All State game laws apply at Rend Lake as well as certain Federal laws. Hunters should obtain copies of these rules and regulations as well as the current Administrative Orders when planning their hunting trip. Good planning and knowledge of the game laws makes for good hunting and good conservation.

ATTENTION: Non-toxic steel shotgun shells are required for all migratory game birds on the lands and water of Rend Lake.



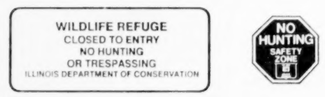
KEEP OUR FORESTS GREEN.

REMOVE ONLY DEAD AND DOWN WOOD FOR CAMPFIRES.

Designated Public Hunting Areas:

WILDLIFE MANAGEMENT AREA
STATE OF ILLINOIS
DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION
PUBLIC USE REGULATED BY ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
IN COOPERATION WITH U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS & U.S. FISH & WILDLIFE SERVICE
BOUNDARY

Designated No Hunting Areas:



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Besides consulting the Recreation Hotline, feel free to write the following offices for further information:

REND LAKE MANAGEMENT OFFICE
U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
R.R. #3
Benton, IL 62812
or call (618) 724-2493

COMPLEX SUPERINTENDENT
WAYNE FITZGERRELL STATE PARK
P.O. BOX D
Benton, IL 62812
or call (618) 629-2320

REMEMBER . . . GOOD HUNTING IS SAFE HUNTING!

REND LAKE

ILLINOIS

Waltonville
East Waltonville
Darcyville
Buck Creek
Big Muddy Subimpoundment Dam
North Nason
South Nason
Nason
Whistling Wings
Casey Fork Subimpoundment Dam
West Casey Fork
Visitor Access
Waltonville
Wallbanks Woods
Elk Prairie
North Bluegill Hole
Bluegill Hole
Ward Branch
C & E
Turnip Patch
JEFFERSON COUNTY
FRANKLIN COUNTY
County Line
Mine 21
Lambrusco
Honker's Point
North Jackie Branch
South Jackie Branch
Jackie Branch
Sesser
Silo
East Casey Fork
Cottonwood
Dip Oak Flats
Bonnie
Atchison Creek
South Bonnie
Ina
Ken Gray
Wayne Fitzgerell State Park
North Gun Creek
Gun Creek Pumping Lot
East Gun Creek
North Marina
West Gun Creek
Gun Creek Subimpoundment Dam
South Gun Creek
Hamilton Branch
Oak Grove
Whittington
Sailboat Harbor
RLCD
Gun Creek
Gun Creek Recreation Area
North Sandusky Recreation Area
North Sandusky
Sandusky Cove
South Sandusky
South Sandusky Recreation Area
North Marcum
North Marcum Recreation Area
West Palestine
East Palestine
South Marcum
South Marcum Recreation Area
Dam West
Administration Building
Dam West Recreation Area
Main Dam
Prairie Hill
Spillway
Spillway Recreation Area
Sugar Creek
West City
Benton
Buckner
Christopher
Big Muddy River

FEET
6000 0 3000 6000

METERS
4000 0 2000 4000

N W E S

Project Boundary, Hunting Areas
Recreation Area, No Hunting
State Park, Permit Hunting Only
Wildlife Refuge, No Hunting
Dual Highway with Median Strip
Primary Highway
Secondary Road
Railroad
Hunter-Fisherman Parking
Hunter-Fisherman Parking with Boat Ramp Access
Waterfowl Viewing Area
Visitor Center
Marina

Unless otherwise posted all areas are open to public hunting in conjunction with State and Federal regulations.

R 29

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St. Louis District
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